

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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FOR COVEY FROM S/PRS (TRATTNER)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING, WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 29, 1976

1. DONATION OF SECRETARY'S TRANSCRIBED TELEPHONE NOTES
TO LIBRARY OF CONGRESS: ASKED WHERE PAPERS DELIVERED
DECEMBER 28TH TO LIBRARY CAME FROM, ACTING DEPUTY
SPOKESMAN SAID MOST OF THE SECRETARIAL NOTES HAVE BEEN KEPT
IN A GOVERNMENT-APPROVED SECURE STORAGE AREA IN POCANTICO
HILLS, NEW YORK. ON MONDAY, AFTER THE SECRETARY'S
DECISION TO DONATE THESE PAPERS ALSO TO THE LIBRARY OF
CONGRESS, THEY WERE REMOVED FROM THE SECURITY AREA AT
POCANTICO HILLS AND DELIVERED TO THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.
SOME OF THE SECRETARIAL NOTES COVERING THE MOST RECENT
PERIODS WERE TRANSFERRED DIRECTLY FROM THE STATE DEPART-
MENT TO THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.
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2. CLARK CLIFFORD'S ALLEGATION OF CONFLICT BETWEEN THE
DEPARTMENT AND WHITE HOUSE OVER RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL IN
LATE 1940S: ASKED ABOUT CLIFFORD'S ASSERTION OF
EXISTENCE OF ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS NOT PUBLISHED IN NOVEMB-
ER 20 RELEASE OF "FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE UNITED

STATES", WHICH ALLEGEDLY ILLUSTRATE THIS CONFLICT, SPOKESMAN SAID VOLUME 5, PART 2, 1948, OF THIS SERIES INCLUDES DOCUMENTS SHOWING IN SOME DETAIL DIFFERENCES IN VIEW

BETWEEN DEPARTMENT AND WHITE HOUSE ON PARTITION OF PALESTINE AND THE RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL. "FOREIGN RELATIONS" SERIES CANNOT INCLUDE EVERY DOCUMENT THAT MIGHT BE RELEVANT; WHAT IS ATTEMPTED IS SELECTION OF DOCUMENTS WHICH MORE CLEARLY ILLUMINATE POLICY VIEWS, INCLUDING DIFFERENCES OF VIEWS, AND DECISIONS. IN COMPILING 1948 VOLUME, SEARCH WAS MADE FOR DOCUMENT CLIFFORD REFERRED TO WHICH IS RECORD OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN LOVETT AND CLIFFORD; SEARCH DID NOT TURN UP THIS DOCUMENT EITHER IN DEPARTMENT FILES OR IN CLIFFORD'S PAPERS IN TRUMAN LIBRARY.

3. SENTENCING IN KOREA OF 18 DEFENDANTS INCLUDING KIM DAE JUNG: SPOKESMAN SAID OUR DEEP CONCERN IN THIS CASE AND FOR HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN KOREA HAS BEEN STATED PUBLICLY BY US A NUMBER OF TIMES AND CONVEYED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS TO SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT.

4. STATEMENT BY KOREAN GOVERNMENT ON RELATIONS WITH US, INCLUDING ALLEGED BLUE HOUSE SURVEILLANCE AND CASE OF KIM SANG KUEN: ASKED FIRST ABOUT EXISTENCE OF US ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE OF BLUE HOUSE AND ABOUT PRIVATE US ASSURANCES SUCH SURVEILLANCE WAS NOT CARRIED OUT, SPOKESMAN NOTED OUR LONG-STANDING POSITION OF NOT COMMENTING ON ALLEGATIONS AND REPORTS OF INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES, AND ADDED THAT WE CANNOT CONFIRM OR DENY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXISTENCE OF ANY PRIVATE COMMENTS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN MADE ON SUCH ALLEGATIONS. CONCERNING KIM, SPOKESMAN RECALLED HE HAD ASKED FOR PERMISSION TO REMAIN IN US, THAT HE IS NOT UNDER CUSTODY OF ANY KIND, AND IS FREE TO RETURN TO HIS EMBASSY OR TO LEAVE COUNTRY AT ANY TIME. HE HAS INFORMED HIS AMBASSADOR TWICE IN WRITING OF DECISION TO STAY IN US FOR PERSONAL REASONS AND THAT DECISION WAS TOTALLY VOLUNTARY. WE HAVE REPEATEDLY INFORMED KIM OF DESIRE OF HIS GOVERNMENT THAT HE MEET WITH KOREAN OFFICIAL, AND KIM FINALLY AGREED TO DO SO, STIPULATING, HOWEVER, THAT OFFICIAL HE WOULD MEET MUST BE MINISTER-COUNSELOR OF KOREAN EMBASSY. KOREAN GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAD ORIGINALLY PROPOSED KIM MEET WITH ANY SOUTH KOREAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL OF HIS CHOICE, DID NOT AGREE TO HAVE MINISTER-COUNSELOR MEET WITH KIM, AND IS REQUESTING, INSTEAD, THAT HE MEET WITH SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR.

5. US LOAN TO PORTUGAL: WE UNDERSTAND SERIOUS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES PORTUGUESE ARE FACING AND ARE DESIROUS OF RESPONDING TO THEIR NEED. DISCUSSIONS ARE CONTINUING IN LISBON THIS WEEK, BUT WE DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO ANNOUNCE AT THIS TIME.

6. REPORT IN BRAZILIAN NEWSPAPER, BASED ON DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE PUBLICLY AT LBJ LIBRARY IN TEXAS, THAT US TASK FORCE STOOD OFF BRAZIL IN 1964 TO HELP MILITARY GROUP ATTEMPTING TO TAKE OVER GOVERNMENT IF SUCH AID WAS NECESSARY: SPOKESMAN SAID STORY IS APPARENTLY BASED ON PUBLIC DOCUMENTS WHICH ARE PRIMARILY OF HISTORICAL INTEREST AND DO NOT REQUIRE COMMENT FROM US. HE NOTED ONLY THAT FORMER AMBASSADOR TO BRAZIL, LINCOLN GORDON, WAS QUOTED IN PRESS THAT DOCUMENTS REFER TO CONTINGENCY PLAN NEVER PUT INTO EFFECT.

7. ANNOUNCEMENT BY REPORTERS COMMITTEE FOR FREEDOM OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE PRESS THAT IT WILL FILE SUIT TO OBTAIN ACCESS TO SECRETARY'S DONATED PAPERS: WE HAVE SEEN STORIES THAT REPORT THIS POSSIBLE ACTION BUT DO NOT HAVE ANY REACTION OR COMMENT.

8. REPORT IN WALL STREET JOURNAL THAT DEPARTMENT IS PREPARING HELP BOEING KEEP SECRET NAMES OF 18 OVERSEAS CONSULTANTS SUSPECTED OF PAYOFFS TO FOREIGN OFFICIALS: SPOKESMAN SAID MATTER IS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY DEPARTMENT BUT NO DECISION TAKEN WHETHER DEPARTMENT SHOULD MAKE ANY SUGGESTION TO FEDERAL COURT THAT CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BE KEPT UNDER SEAL. IF DECISION IS TAKEN TO MAKE SUCH A SUGGESTION IT WILL NATURALLY BE MADE PUBLIC ONLY AT TIME APPROPRIATE PAPERS ARE FILED IN COURT.

9. BREZHNEV INTERVIEW IN HEARST NEWSPAPERS: NO PARTICULAR COMMENT TO OFFER.

10. REPORTED CHANGE OF POLICY BY SYRIAN GOVERNMENT RESTORING FULL CIVIL RIGHTS TO JEWS LIVING IN SYRIA: WE DO NOT HAVE ANY INFORMATION SPECIFICALLY CONFIRMING RESTORATION OF FULL CIVIL RIGHTS. WE ARE AWARE THERE HAVE BEEN SOME IMPROVEMENTS IN CONDITION OF LIFE FOR MINORITY GROUPS, INCLUDING JEWS, IN SYRIA OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, AND, OF COURSE, WE WELCOME THAT TREND.

ROBINSON

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